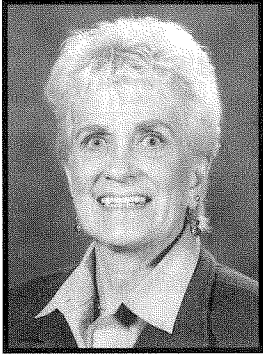
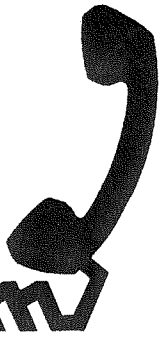


Hammerstrom's

for the people
in the 17th Senate District

Hotline



State Senator

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October 6, 2003



MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK OCTOBER 5-11. In response to the growing number of individuals who suffer from some type of mental illness, this week has been designated as the National Mental Illness Awareness Week. One of the most common types of mental illness is depression. Each year, more than 19 million Americans and almost 1 million residents in Michigan (that's 1 in 10) suffer from some form of clinical depression. This includes major depressive disorder (the leading cause of disability in the U.S.), bipolar disorder (often referred to as manic-depressive illness), or a milder, more chronic form of depression called dysthymia, which if untreated can lead to major depression. Depression is a treatable illness, and that is why October 9, 2003, has been designated National Depression Screening Day. Not only is it hoped that many Americans will take the time for a depression screening, but it is an excellent opportunity to spread public awareness about this and other forms of mental illness.

DID YOU KNOW? Studies have shown that the annual cost of depression in Michigan is roughly \$1.6 billion in direct treatment, mortality, absenteeism, and loss of productivity at work. Research suggests that 80% of people can be successfully treated for depression; unfortunately, the majority of Michigan residents are not seeking or receiving treatment.

JUROR COMPENSATION INCREASED. Beginning October 1st, individuals selected to serve on juries involving Michigan civil and criminal matters will be paid more for their time. Under Public Act 739 of 2002, jurors will receive not less than \$25 per day and \$12.50 per half day for the first day and not less than \$40 per day and \$20 per half day for each subsequent day. Previously, jurors received a minimum of \$15 per day and \$7.50 per half day for each day of attendance at court. This is the first time the amount of compensation has been increased since 1968. To learn more about Michigan's courts and to read about jury instructions, please visit www.courts.michigan.gov.

NOTE: This increase does not pertain to individuals who are selected to serve on federal juries.

MICHIGAN'S PHONE CUSTOMERS STILL HAVE PROTECTIONS. Although a federal judge recently struck down the National Do-Not-Call Registry, Michigan's phone users are still able, under both Michigan and federal law, to request that their phone number be removed from any organization's telemarketing list. Anyone interested in getting on an organization's Do Not Call list are required to contact the organization directly in writing. You may also contact the Direct Marketing Association and request to be placed on its Telephone Preference Service. You may register for this service online at: www.dmaconsumers.org/consumerassistance.html or call (212) 768-7277.

In addition, it is still illegal for telemarketers to:

- Call if you have clearly stated that you want to be added to their "Do Not Call" list
- Call before 8 a.m. and after 9 p.m.
- Intentionally block or otherwise interfere with their phone number showing up on caller ID
- Send unsolicited faxes